LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I understand a Bill is being considered to remove the eligibility of independent schools to claim charitable relief from non domestic rates. I would like to ensure the relevant Committees have considered this very carefully and understand the consequences and pressure this will add to the state school system especially in Cities where there is a large percentage of children who attend independent schools. If this Bill is imposed then these pupils may move to the state school system due to fees becoming prohibitive on parents disposable incomes, which are under immense pressure in a society where incomes are not growing at significant rates. I would like to focus the Committee’s mind specifically on the City of Edinburgh where approx 25% of school children attend independent schools. If these children were to move to the state system this would result in new school buildings having to be constructed, additional teachers and support staff being required. This will all come at a cost which could exceed the revenue generated from charging the non domestic rates to independent schools. Equally if this is imposed in 2020 there could be a ‘flood’ of pupils looking for places in the state system for the next academic year 2019/20 i.e. before sufficient buildings can be constructed and teachers found, which is already a strain to fill roles in the state schools.

Equally by pupils attending independent schools parents are effectively subsidising the state education system as they pay taxes yet do not draw or benefit from the state education provided.